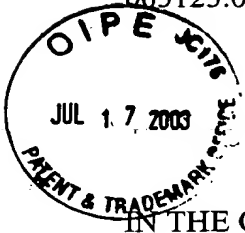


AMENDMENTS



IN THE CLAIMS:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present application are shown below in clean form whether or not an amendment has been made.

✓ Claims 1-41 (**Cancelled**) were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

42. (**Currently Amended**) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a generally circular configuration defined in part by a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to permanently form a gap disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank;

the gap size to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;

a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof without crossing the shank with the blocker;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye when the sliding loop knot has releasably engaged the fishing line with the eye;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and

the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device.

43. (Previously Added) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

a second section having a first end and a second end;

the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

44. (Previously Added) The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;

a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and

the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

Claims 45 and 46 (**Cancelled**) were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

47. (Previously Added) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting outward with respect to the distal end.

48. (Previously Added) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the blocker further comprises a barb.

49. **(Currently Amended)** A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at one end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

**the shank having a first diameter and the eye having a second diameter at least approximately twice the first diameter;**

a blocker formed on the eye without any portion of the eye or the blocker crossing the shank;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye;

the sliding loop **knot** ~~not~~ operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device; **and**

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye; and

**the diameter of the sliding loop** ~~which~~ may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

**Please add the following new Claims 50-58.**

50. **(New)** A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:

a shank;

a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;

an eye disposed at a second end of the shank;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;

the fishing line having a diameter;  
the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank at least equal to approximately twice the diameter of the fishing line;  
a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;  
the distal end of the eye, the eye and the shank disposed in approximately the same plane;  
a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;  
the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;  
the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye; and  
the sliding loop knot operable for movement to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook.

51. (New) The fish hook and fishing line of Claim 50 further comprising the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank equal to approximately twice the diameter of the fishing line.

52. (New) The hook and the fishing line of Claim 50 further comprising the shank having a diameter and the eye having a diameter at least approximately twice the diameter of the shank.

53. (New) The hook and fishing line of Claim 50 further comprising:  
the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank equal to approximately twice the diameter of the fishing line; and  
the shank having a diameter and the eye having a diameter approximately twice the diameter of the shank.

54. (New) A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:

- a shank;
- a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;
- an eye disposed at a second end of the shank;
- the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;
- the fishing line having a diameter;
- the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank at least equal to approximately twice the diameter of the fishing line;
- a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;
- a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;
- the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;
- the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;
- the sliding loop knot operable for movement along a central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook;
- the fishing line having a first section defined in part by the sliding loop formed on the first end and a second end;
- the fishing line having a second section defined in part by a respective first end and a respective second end; and
- the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

55. (New) A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:

- a shank;
- a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;

an eye having a generally circular configuration disposed at a second end of the shank;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;

the fishing line having a diameter;

the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank at least equal to approximately twice the diameter of the fishing line;

a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;

the distal end of the eye, the eye and the shank disposed in approximately the same plane;

a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable for movement along a central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook;

the fishing line having a first section defined in part by the sliding loop formed on the first end and a second end;

the fishing line having a second section defined in part by a respective first end and a respective second end; and

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

56. (New) A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:

the fishing line having a first diameter;

a shank having a second diameter;

a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;

an eye disposed at a second end of the shank;  
the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;  
the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank equal to at least twice the diameter of the fishing line;  
a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;  
a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;  
the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;  
the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of a sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;  
the sliding loop knot operable for movement along a central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook;  
the fishing line having a first section defined in part by the sliding loop formed on the first end and a second end;  
the fishing line having a second section defined in part by a respective first end and a respective second end;  
the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section;  
a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;  
a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and  
the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

57. (New) A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:  
the fishing line having a first diameter;  
a shank having a second diameter;  
a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;

an eye having a generally circular configuration disposed at a second end of the shank;

the eye having a diameter approximately equal to twice the diameter of the shank;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;

the distance between the distal end of the eye and the shank equal to approximately twice the diameter of the shank;

a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;

the distal end of the eye, the eye and the shank disposed in approximately the same plane;

a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of a sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable for movement along a central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook;

the fishing line having a first section defined in part by the sliding loop formed on the first end and a second end;

the fishing line having a second section defined in part by a respective first end and a respective second end;

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section;

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;

a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and  
the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.



58. (New) A fish hook and a fishing line comprising:

- a shank;
- a hook disposed at a first end of the shank;
- an eye disposed at a second end of the shank;
- the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced a selected distance from the shank to allow a portion of the fishing line to slide into the eye;
- a blocker disposed on and forming an integral part of the eye to prevent the portion of the fishing line from sliding off the eye;
- the distal end of the eye, the eye and the shank disposed in approximately the same plane;
- a sliding loop formed on a first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;
- the sliding loop providing the portion of the line which slides into the eye;
- the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of a sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be released by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of a sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;
- the sliding loop knot operable for movement along a central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop from the eye of the fish hook;
- the fishing line having a first section defined in part by the sliding loop formed on the first end and a second end;
- the fishing line having a second section defined in part by a respective first end and a respective second end;
- the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section;
- a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;
- a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and
- the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

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